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fidently recommend it to any one who wishes to own such an instrument. The price and terms of sale can be learned from Mr. ROOT. E. S. H.

SCIENTIFIC VISITORS TO THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

On April 28 and 29 we had the pleasure of receiving Dr. A. MARCUSE, of the Royal Observatory of Berlin, and Mr. E. D. PRESTON, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, who are on their way to Honolulu to engage in a series of observations for the determination of the short-period changes in the latitude (see *Publications A. S. P.*, vol. II, p. 135). Mr. PRESTON will also determine the force of gravity at various stations in Hawaii, as Mauna Loa, etc., in connection with much other work of the kind already done by him (see *Publications A. S. P.*, vol. I, p. 125). Although the season of steady vision had not yet set in and the images of stars were not to be compared with those to be had during the summer and autumn, yet the nights were clear and our guests were able to see *Saturn*, *Uranus*, some stars and nebulae and also to examine the solar spectrum with the great telescope under moderately good circumstances; as well as to make a thorough examination of the working of the dome, the moving-floor and the mounting of the 36-inch equatorial.

E. S. H.

JOHN LE CONTE, BORN 1818, DIED 1891.

After a long life of eminent services to Science and to Education and of strong personal influence over the many who were brought into contact with him, Professor JOHN LE CONTE died at Berkeley, April 29, 1891, at the age of 73 years. He belonged to a family many of whose members were and are highly distinguished in Science. His own scientific labors have been successively in the fields of Medicine, Chemistry and Physics, and among his numerous published memoirs there are many of permanent and lasting value. His most striking contribution to Physics was the discovery (in 1857) of the remarkable properties of "sensitive-flames" which afford a most delicate means of analysing compound musical tones. His important experiments on sound-shadows in water were wholly novel and of great value.

Almost his entire life was spent in the teaching of Science, and, since 1869, he has been the most prominent figure at our State